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## 2021 Landgrove, Vermont ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ending December 31, 2021

#### TOWN OF LANDGROVE - WARNING

#### Remote Only Annual Public Information Hearing February 28, 2022 at 6pm,

#### Australian ballot Voting March 1, 2022 from 8am to 7 pm

The legal voters of the Town of Landgrove are hereby warned and notified to join in a **public informational hearing on Monday, February 28th 2022 at 6pm** to discuss the articles on the 2022 Town Meeting Warning AND to transact the following business by Australian ballot the following day **March 1st 2022 at Town Hall, 88 Landgrove Road Landgrove Vermont,** The hearing will only be accessible remotely by electronic means.

Article I: To elect the following officers as required by law:

Office	Term length
Moderator	1 year
Town Clerk	1 year
Town Treasurer	1 year
Select Board Member	3 years
Lister	3 years
Auditor	3 years
Cemetery Commissioner	5 years
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	1 year
Grand Juror	1 year
Constable	1 year
Trustee of Public Funds	3 years

- Article 2: Shall the Town authorize its SelectBoard to apply any surplus or unanticipated funds toward the proposed budget?
- Article 3: Shall the voters authorize payment of real and personal property taxes on October 1, 2022 by delivery to town hall postmarked on or before that date?
- Article 4: Shall the Town raise the budgeted monies necessary to pay Town expenses and obligations detailed in the Town Report for the 2022 year?
- Article 5: Shall the Town appropriate \$5,000 in one-time funding to build a stone wall at
  the new and recently dedicated Landgrove Veteran's Memorial site behind the "Old
  Cemetery?" The stone wall would be built in front of the two maples between the
  Memorial and Luerich Field. Any remaining funds not used for the construction of the
  wall would be put into the Cemetery Commission's operating account.
- Article 6: Shall the voters indicate support for the concept of a regional field house at
  the Dana Thompson Recreation Park in Manchester, with the understanding that towns
  would participate in its construction costs under a formula based on a combination of
  grand list, population and distance, in exchange for a special use status for those who
  live or own a second home in the Town of Landgrove? This article is advisory in nature
  and does not bind the Town to further action.
- <u>Article 7:</u> Shall the Town agree to meet in 2023 on the first Monday before the first Tuesday in March (March 6, 2023) at 6pm for the annual Town Meeting?

Polls open from 8 am to 7pm

Dated this 27th day of January, 2022

by the SelectBoard members of the Town of Landgrove

John Orden (chair)

Steven Hall

\_\_\_\_

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT TOWN OF LANDGROVE VERMONT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021

AUDITORS

ELIZABETH DEE • TOVE STIGUM • CHARLIE HOWARD

## Remote Only Public 2022 Information Hearing Notice and Agenda

-The SelectBoard for the Town of Landgrove will hold a public informational hearing on Monday, February 28th 2022 at 6pm to discuss the Australian ballot articles on the 2022 Town Meeting Warning, The hearing will only be accessible remotely by electronic means.

Access - The ZOOM Meeting will be February 28, 2022 06:00 PM. You may access the Information Meeting in the following ways:

- by web browser at www.ZOOM.us

Meeting ID: 873 7216 5305 Passcode: 418448

+by phone: Dial 1 929 205 6099, enter the Meeting ID and passcode above

If attendance is very high, we may need to ask people to turn their video off to reduce bandwidth, internet being what it is in Landgrove. Please remember to turn off other internet devices in the vicinity - they will cause echoing and feedback in your reception.

Agenda- We have allotted just over an hour to cover the the Agenda, which contains seven Articles. There is no amending of Articles or proposal of new Articles at this Information Meeting. Voters will be voting on the Articles by ballots at the polls the following day between 8am and 7pm Tuesday March 1st. The Information Meeting is conducted in order to read these seven Articles and provide an opportunity to address any questions. The Town Report contains the officers' and other reports and all budget figures- please read that well because we will not be having each officer speak the way we do at our usual in person Town Meetings. This will help keep the Information Session on track and your questions specific.

#### What to expect

All attendees will be muted upon arrival in the Zoom Session. In an effort to streamline the meeting process, the Select Board and the Moderator will be prioritizing questions that are asked via the "chat" feature within Zoom and via email to the Landgrove Clerk at clerk@landgrove.vermont.gov.

These questions will be read by the Moderator and directed to the appropriate person for providing an answer. The Select Board and the Moderator will make every attempt to also respond to questions asked by meeting participants "from the floor" during the course of the meeting, but please keep in mind that, if this is a heavy attended meeting, this method of communicating could become difficult for the Moderator to manage.

To ask a question we ask that you use the "raised hand" icon within Zoom and wait to be called on by the Moderator. If you are calling into the meeting from a regular phone, you should be able to "raise your hand" by pressing \*9. Please remember to withdraw your question via chat or email or to unraise your hand if, in the course of ongoing discussion, your question gets answered prior to your asking it.

These meetings work best if participants keep their microphones muted at all times unless they are speaking. Also, please remember that you can make a slower internet connection work much more reliably by turning off your video function.

To inquire- identify yourself and your location- as if you are calling a radio show: "Chrystal Cleary from Landgrove Hollow asks 'why is the XXXX account higher this year than last?"

\_ 2 \_

#### February 28 6:00pm Information Meeting AGENDA

6:00 PM Call to Order

- 6:01 PM: The SelectBoard Chair will welcome and introduce the Meeting and procedures
  - o Public comment
- Approximately 6:03 PM: Review and discuss Article I: To elect officers as required by law
  - o Public comment
- Approximately 6:20 PM: Review and discuss Article 2: Shall the Town authorize its Selectboard to apply any surplus or unanticipated funds toward the proposed budget?
  - o Public comment
- Approximately 6:22 PM: Review and discuss Article 3: Shall the voters authorize payment of real and personal property taxes on October 1, 2022 by delivery to town hall postmarked on or before that date?
  - Public comment
- Approximately 6:24 PM: Review and discuss Article 4: Shall the Town raise the budgeted monies necessary to pay Town expenses and obligations detailed in the Town Report for the 2022 year?
  - o Public comment
- Approximately 6:37 PM: Review and discuss Article 5: Shall the Town
  appropriate \$5,000 in one-time funding to build a stone wall at the new and
  recently dedicated Landgrove Veteran's Memorial site behind the "Old
  Cemetery?" The stone wall would be built in front of the two maples
  between the Memorial and Luerich Field. Any remaining funds not used for
  the construction of the wall would be put into the Cemetery Commission's
  operating account.
  - o Public comment
- Approximately 6:45 PM: Review and discuss Article 6: Shall the voters indicate support for the concept of a regional field house at the Dana Thompson Recreation Park in Manchester, with the understanding that towns would participate in its construction costs under a formula based on a combination of grand list, population and distance, in exchange for a special use status for those who live or own a second home in the Town of Landgrove? This article is advisory in nature and does not bind the Town to further action.
  - o Public comment
- Approximately 7:00 PM: Review and discuss Article 7: Shall the Town agree to meet in 2023 on the first Monday before the first Tuesday in March (March 6, 2023) at 6pm for the annual Town Meeting?
  - o Public comment
- Approximately 7:03 PM:: Discussion of other non-binding business (if applicable)
- Approximately 7:15 PM:: adjourn meeting.

#### **Useful Information**

Landgrove Town Offices

Phone/fax: (802) 824-3716

Email: clerk@landgrove.vermont.gov

Mailing address: 88 Landgrove Road • Landgrove, VT 05148

Hours: Thursdays, 9am - 1pm, or by appointment

Website: landgrove.vermont.gov

Town Clerk: Chrystal Cleary

(802) 824-5394 (home)

Town Treasurer: Andrea Ogden

treasurer@landgrove.vermont.gov

Road Commissioner: Steve Hall

(802) 824-6622 (home)

Fire Warden: Karl T. Pfister

(802) 824-4663 (office)

Assistant Fire Warden: Jeremiah Evarts

(802) 683-0518 (for burn permits)

Select Board Chair: John Ogden

(802) 366-0317 (cell)

Community Resources

Londonderry Transfer Station:

http://www.londonderryvt.org/recycletransfer/

Phone: (802) 824-5506

Closed Wednesdays & Sundays, go to web for specific hours

Londonderry Post Office: (802) 824-6571

Window hours: Mon - Fri, 8:30 - 12 & 2 - 4:30pm

Sat 8:30 - 11:30am

Flood Brook School: (802) 824-6811 Burr & Burton Academy: (802) 362-1775

Green Mountain Power: (800) 451-2877 (report outages)

Mountain Valley Medical Clinic: (802) 824-6901

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8:00 - 5:00pm

On-call phone: 24 hours

VT State Police: (802) 442-5421 (non-emergency)

Senators: Brian Campion, bcampion@leg.state.vt.us

Dick Sears, rsears@leg.state.vt.us

House of Representatives: Linda Joy Sullivan, lsullivan@leg.state.vt.us

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### Vital Statistics Town of Landgrove, County of Bennington

Population 177 (up 20, Source: 2020 U.S. Census)

Voters 133 (down 9) Area 5,586 acres

2021 Homestead Rate \$1.8416 (down 0.91%)

Non-Homestead Rate \$1.8986 (up 0.80%)

Number of Taxable parcels 220

Total Property Valuation \$118,505,900 (up from 117,277,926)

Students:

PreK-8th grade 11 (down 9) 9th-12th grade 9 (down 2)

#### **BIRTHS**

Valerie Jane Greenfield Hadden Dec. 10, 2021 to Sara Greenfield & Reilly Hadden

#### MARRIAGES

none



Sheila M. Ogden

#### **DEATHS**

Sheila M. Odgen February 8, 1929 –August 31, 2021

Bobbi Usher

January 28 1943-September 2021

Jeffrey Clark

October 23, 1959-November 20, 2021

Felicia Licata

June 3, 1925-December 25, 2021

Brad Gwinn

June 12, 1952-April 13, 2021



Brad Gwinn

#### COME CELEBRATE DR. FOX'S RETIREMENT

Many of you may already know, Dr. Roger Fox will retire this year from his position at the Mountain Valley Health Center in Londonderry after 47 years of service. Roger has not only been a central pillar of our local clinic, but also a vibrant force in our community.

The Mountain Valley Health Council invites all well-wishers to come together in a tribute to Roger on Saturday, July 9, from 1 to 4 pm on the Peru Town Green. Come sign the guest book, leave a card to wish him well and enjoy some light refreshments.

#### Landgrove Checklist

ADAMS, LEIGH ENGLISH, MARY KLINE, CHRISTOPHER SABOL, TARA ADAMS, RICHARD ESPOSITO, JENNIFER KNAACK, FRANK AMEDEN, JAMES EVARTS, JEREMIAH LAPRADE, VIRGINIA AMEDEN, JOSEPHINE EVARTS, KARA LENOX, SUSAN BELLINGHAM, WHITNEY FANELLI, RYAN LEPPER, ARIANA BIGELOW, HELENA FANELLI, STEPHEN LICATA, MARY BIGELOW, JONATHAN FOSTER, KATE LUX, HARRY BIGELOW, MARY FOSTER, RYAN MALLARD, EMILY BIGELOW, MARY MALLARD, JOHN FREEMAN, BENJAMIN BLACK, SANDY GELLERT, SUSANNA MALLARD, JULIE BOKENKAMP, SARAH GRAYSON, CARINTHIA MCCAW, WILLIAM BURKE, AIDAN GRAYSON, PRISCILLA MCCLARAN, ANNE CARELESS, AMANDA GREENFIELD, SARA MCCLARAN, TIM CARELESS, NICHOLAS HADDEN, JOHN MCNAIR, DANA CHALMERS, ASA HADDEN, REILLY MCNAIR, DYLAN CHALMERS, CAMERON HALL, STEVEN MCNAIR, MALCOLM CHECCHIA, THOMAS HARDING-LAPRADE, MERKLING, THOMAS ZACHARY CHHUN, KELLY A MOLE, MICHAEL HARRIS, BRENNAN CHHUN, VIRIA MORFIT, CHRISTINE HARRIS, CHARLES CLEARY, CHRYSTAL MORFIT, MICHAEL HARRIS, CLAUDIA CLEARY, JEFFERSON NICHOLS, CLARENCE HARRIS, SUSAN CLEARY, RAYE NICHOLS, PAULINE HARRIS, THOMAS COLLINS, ELIZABETH OGDEN, ANDREA HEINEMANN, NANCIE COLLINS, ROBYN OGDEN, BENJAMIN HENSON, ANNA COLLINS, SUSAN OGDEN, JOHN HENSON, COLLEEN DEE. ELIZABETH OGDEN, KATHARINE HENSON, CRAIG DEGAN, KATHARINE OGDEN, MARY HOULIHAN, RACHEL DEGAN, MATHEWS PETERS, JEREMY HOWARD, CHARLES DOMBROSKI, BRITTANY PETERSON, ALICE HUMPHREY, GARRETT DOMBROSKI, JACOB PFISTER, KAREN JEFFERY, MARIAN DOMMENGE, KEVIN PFISTER, KARL T. JEFFERY, MICHAEL DUFFY, ROBERT REED, SARAH JORDAN, JEAN ECKHARDT, GREG REED, WILLIAM JORDAN, ROBERT ECKHARDT, KIMBERLY SABOL, BROOKE JOYCE, JILLIAN ECKHARDT, LYNN SABOL, HAYLEY KEY, ELY EMERSON, NATHALIE SABOL, MATTHEW KIMBALL, LESLIE

SCHRIEBL, JAMES SNYDER, D. JAY SNYDER, KATHY SOUCY, HOPE SOUCY, NATHALIE STIGUM, TOVE SWARTZENTRUBER, JAMES SWARTZENTRUBER, SONYA SWEETMAN, CHARLES SWEETMAN, MARION THOMSON, KAREN THOMSON, PETER TOLBERT, EVELYN TOLBERT, JOHN TOMKINSON, VICTORIA WAITE, ROBERT WAITE, SARAH WILEY, JOHN WYLIE, JAMIE WYLIE, JOSHUA YOUNG, HELEN ZIELINSKI, SCOTT

SABOL, ROBERT

ENGLISH, JOHN

#### **Town Officers Elected**

POSITION	NAMES	TERM EXPIRES
Moderator (1 year term)	Claudia Harris	2022
Town Clerk (1 year term)	Chrystal Cleary	2022
Town Treasurer (1 year term)	Andrea Ogden	2022
Select Board (3 year term)	John Ogden	2022
	Michael Jeffery	2023
	Steve Hall	2024
Board of Auditors	Liza Dee	2022
(3 year term)	Tove Stigum	2023
	Charlie Howard	2024
Board of Listers	Blair McCaw	2024
(3 year term)	Chuck Sweetman	2022
Cemetery Commission		
(5 year term)	May Bigelow	2022
	Jay Snyder	2023
	Lynn Eckhardt	2024
	Dick Adams	2025
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Andrea Ogden	2022
(1 year term)		
Grand Juror (1 year term)	Claudia Harris	2022
Town Constable (1 year term)	John Wiley	2022
Trustee of Public Funds	Sarah Waite	2024
(3 year term)	Dick Adams	2022
	Andrea Ogden	2023
School Director (3 year term)	Ben Freeman	2023

#### **Justices of the Peace**

Claudia Harris, Virginia LaPrade, Christine Morfit, John Ogden, and Charles Sweetman

Justices of the Peace are elected by paper ballot during the November Elections. The term of a justice of the peace begins on February 1 of the year following the general election and runs for two years. 4 V.S.A. § 491. All of Landgrove's current Justices of the Peace were elected in November of 2020, and their term expires in 2022.

#### **Town Officers Appointed by Select Board**

POSITION	NAME	3 YEAR TERM EXPIRES
Zoning Administrator	Will Goodwin	2025
Planning Commission	Harry Lux (chair)	2025
(includes ZA)	Michael Morfit	2025
	Mary Licata	2024
	Jeff Cleary	2023
Zoning Board of Adjustment	Harry Lux (chair)	2025
(includes all members of the Plan	ning Comm, Except the	Zoning Administrator)
Health Officer	Cameron Chalmers	2025
BCRC Member	vacant	
		1 YEAR TERM EXPIRES
Town Service Officer	Chair, Select Board	2023
Emergency Management	John Ogden	2023
Forest Fire Warden	Karl T. Pfister	2023
Asst. Fire Warden	Jeremiah Evarts	2023
Road Commissioner	Steve Hall	2023
Assistant Town Treasurer*	vacant	
Assistant Town Clerk*	vacant	
911 Coordinator	Will Goodwin	2023

Please note that all Select Board-appointed Officers serve from January 1 of their appointment year to December 31 of the year listed here.

<sup>\*</sup>The Assistant Treasurer and Clerk are appointed by the Treasurer and Clerk, respectively. Please get in touch with the Treasurer or Clerk for details if interested in serving in one of these part time appointments! treasurer@landgrove.vermont.gov and clerk@landgrove.vermont.gov

#### **Minutes of Town Meeting 2021**

#### Landgrove 2021 Informational Zoom Meeting – March 1 at 6:00pm

6:03pm - John Ogden called the meeting to order at 6:03pm on March 1<sup>st</sup>. He welcomed everyone and laid the ground rules for the meeting including how to ask questions

6:07pm – John opened discussion on Article 1. There were no comments or questions.

6:08pm – John opened discussion on Article 2. There were no comments or questions.

6:09pm - John opened discussion on Article 3. There were no comments or questions.

6:10pm - John opened discussion on Article 4.

Regarding Article 1, Jillian Joyce asked whether there is anyone running for the Lister position as a write-in candidate? John asked Chuck Sweetman to comment, as the head lister. Chuck was not at the meeting, so Blair McCaw was asked as a recently appointed Lister. He was not aware of anyone running as a write-in candidate. Ben Freeman stated that he heard in the grocery store that Victoria Duffy was interested in the position. Victoria was also not present at the meeting.

Jillian Joyce asked a second question regarding Article 1 – whether there was anyone running for the Cemetery Commission as a write-in candidate? Lynn Eckhardt responded that the Commission has discussed reducing the size of the Commission to 4 members and she was not expecting anyone to be elected from the 2021 Ballot. Virginia LaPrade offered to help out with the Cemetery Commission, but later withdrew her offer when the intent of the Commission was made clear. Will Reed asked whether the Commission could have a 4 person board or did it have to be an odd number. Lynn responded that the board did not need to have an odd number of commissioners.

6:18pm – John opened discussion on Article 5. Lynn Eckhardt wanted to know why the meeting was scheduled for February. John replied that Town Meeting in 2022 will be on March 1<sup>st</sup>, which puts our meeting on the evening before Town Meeting Day, which is February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mary English asked why the budget for the Londonderry Transfer Station had increased so much, what the \$10,000 for Misc. Projects in the Roads Budget was for, why the Delinquent Tax revenue was put into the Unallocated Reserve Fund and what is the targeted balance for the Unallocated Reserve Fund? Andrea Ogden responded that the Transfer Station expenses are divided among the 5 towns that the landfill services. The expenses rose significantly in 2020, largely due to the increased number of residents here during the global pandemic that started aggressively in March of 2020. Andrea stated that the decision to put the Delinquent Tax revenue into the Unallocated Reserve Fund was a decision by the Select Board. John Ogden stated that the Unallocated Reserve Fund is new to the town and the Select Board is in the process of defining the parameters of that fund. Steve Hall stated that the \$10,000 in Misc Projects in the Roads Budget is for anticipated replacement and/or repair the guard rails on the flats and on the Hapgood Pond Road corner. Lynn Eckhardt asked whether some money for guard rails could be recouped from the people who have hit it. John indicated that there is a possibility of some insurance money coming in from one accident this winter — it won't be determined until the snow melts and the insurance company can send out an adjuster. Lynn acknowledged that she appreciated the Select Boards efforts to save the town a few dollars.

Dick Adams asked, regarding Article 1, what will happen is someone is elected to the Cemetery Commission, despite the commissions intent to not replace their 5<sup>th</sup> member. Chrystal Cleary explained the voting process relative to write-ins and how with as little as two votes someone could be elected. It was noted that anyone elected could decline the position if so desired.

Ben Freeman stated that, regarding the school ballot and the write-in candidates for the names-at-large, John Wilson of Manchester would like to be written in. Jillian Joyce clarified that anyone, from any town within the Taconic and Green District could be written into the at-large candidate spot. And that John Wilson could be written into either the open Manchester position or the at-large position.

6:35pm – Any other non-binding business? Lynn Eckhardt expressed her thanks for the work that Chrystal has done this year. "She is a saint."

Michel Morfit asked whether there was a "sandbox" update. John Ogden responded, saying that recently the focus has been on the legality and logistics of Town Meeting. He encouraged anyone to come to the Select Board meetings to get more information. Mat Degan asked whether there were any specific locations under consideration. John stated that the Select Board does not have locations solid enough to put forth at this time.

John thanked everyone for participating. Mary English asked whether the recording of the meeting will be on the website. Chrystal indicated that it would be.

Claudia Harris noted the passing of Landgrovian Maureen Checchia in December of 2020.

6:42pm - Claudia motioned to adjourn the meeting.

#### **Auditors' Report**

We, the undersigned auditors of the Town of Landgrove, performed an audit of the Town's financial statements of the year ended December 31st, 2021. We wish to report that all accounts are in balance.

Elizabeth Dee

Charlie Howard

Tove Stigum



A pair of Landgrovers volunteering to clean up our roads on Green Up Day.

#### **General Fund Budget**

		2020	2021	2021	2022
	_	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PROPOSED
1	Revenue	000.00	500.00	040.00	500.00
2	Copier	832.00	500.00	810.60	500.00
3 4	Current Use General Fund Taxes Received	60,214.00	55,000.00	49,343.00	50,000.00
5	Grants	86,581.86	89,882.94	88,534.47	90,880.00
6	Green Mountain Forest	2,299.00	2,100.00	237.49 2,331.00	2,300.00
7	Interest			11,229.40	3,000.00
8	Licenses & Permits	7,325.59 2,523.95	3,000.00 750.00	1,425.00	1,000.00
9	Prior Year Tax Income	2,525.95	750.00	29,818.18	1,000.00
10	Recording Income	4,760.00	3,500.00	3,770.00	3,500.00
11	Rental of Town Hall	701.00	701.00	701.00	701.00
12	Total Revenue	165,237.40	155,433.94	188,200.14	151,881.00
13	Surplus Applied	11,099.39	16,999.52	16,999.52	20,000.00
	TOTAL	176,336.79	172,433.46	205,199.66	171,881.00
15	TOTAL	170,330.79	172,433.40	203,133.00	171,001.00
	Evnanca				
17	Expense Appropriations				
18	Community				
19	Benn Cnty Assoc. Against Child Abuse	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
20	Flood Brook Athletic Association	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
21	Green Up Vermont	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
22	Health Care & Rehabilitation Services	166.00	166.00	166.00	166.00
23	Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
24	Mountain Valley Medical Clinic	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
25	Neighborhood Connections	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
26	Phoenix Fire Company #6	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
27	So Londonderry Free Library	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
28	The Collaborative	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
29	Visiting Nurse Alliance	615.00	615.00	615.00	615.00
30	Total Community	12,581.00	12,581.00	12.581.00	12,581.00
31	,	,	,	,	,
32	Town				
33	Cem Endowment	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
34	Cem Maintenance	13,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00
35	Fire Truck	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
36	Reappraisal Fund	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
37	Records Restoration	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
38	Town Hall Maint Fund	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
39	Total Town	23,000.00	16,000.00	16,000.00	15,000.00
40	Total Appropriations	35,581.00	28,581.00	28,581.00	27,581.00
41		,			
42	Taxes, Assessments & Fees				
43	BCRC	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
44	County Tax	8,002.54	8,250.00	6,891.98	7,000.00
45	Londonderry Landfill	12,872.74	21,887.46	21,887.46	19,885.00
46	SWNH Fire & Rescue Dispatch	9,494.00	9,969.00	9,969.00	9,500.00
47	VT League of Cities & Towns	1,258.00	1,258.00	1,258.00	1,295.00
48	Total Taxes, Assessments & Fees	33,627.28	43,364.46	42,006.44	39,680.00
49		, .	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	,	,
50	Admin Costs				
51	Payroll Expenses	4,766.03	5,860.00	5,072.32	5,500.00
52	Salaries	,	.,	.,.	.,
53	Assistant Clerk	765.00	2,000.00	1,378.00	2,000.00
54	Assistant Treasurer		3,000.00	620.00	2,000.00
55	Town Clerk	19,296.40	16,731.00	16,636.60	16,985.00
56	Treasurer	12,000.04	14,000.00	13,884.59	14,210.00
57	School Director	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
58	Auditors Stipends		1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
59	Select Board	2,200.00	3,300.00	4,400.00	3,300.00
60	Total Salaries	40,127.47	47,491.00	44,591.51	46,595.00
		10			following page.
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61					
62	Town Hall & Office	0.000.00	0.500.00	4.047.04	0.500.00
63	Heating Fuel	2,293.36	2,500.00	1,947.24	2,500.00
64	IT Systems	2,521.78	3,700.00	3,348.59	3,700.00
65	Routine Maintenance	5,363.74	6,000.00	3,670.10	6,000.00
66	Supplies	2,991.89	1,500.00	3,909.57	3,000.00
67	Training	160.00	500.00	28.00	250.00
68	Utilities	2,138.32	2,200.00	2,172.63	2,200.00
69	Insurance	8,434.10	10,500.00	10,554.00	10,500.00
70	Legal	3,965.00	1,000.00	5,497.80	5,000.00
71	Accounting Consultant		4,000.00	1,224.00	2,000.00
72	Miscellaneous Expense	650.00	-	21.00	-
73	Town Lands	3,234.49	2,500.00	1,830.00	1,800.00
74	Town Report	1,652.00	1,500.00	1,400.00	1,500.00
75	Roads Comm Stipend	1,100.00	-	-	
76	Total Hall & Office	34,504.68	35,900.00	35,602.93	38,450.00
77					
78	Listers				
79	Lister Stipend	6,600.00	3,300.00	3,300.00	3,300.00
80	Lister Administrator	-	1,500.00	830.00	-
81	Tax Mapping	3,037.50	3,075.00	3,075.00	3,075.00
82	Consultant		3,000.00	750.00	4,500.00
83	Listers' Expenses	430.42	300.00	417.78	500.00
84	Total Lister	10,067.92	11,175.00	8,372.78	11,375.00
85					
86					
87	Zoning & Planning				
88	Zoning Administrator	4,660.00	4,222.00	6,494.45	6,500.00
89	Chair ZBA Stipend		500.00	500.00	500.00
90	Chair Planning Stipend		500.00	500.00	500.00
91	Misc Expenses	768.92	700.00	451.12	700.00
92	Total Zoning	5.428.92	5,922.00	7.945.57	8,200.00
93	g	-,	-,	.,	-,
94	Total Expense	159,337.27	172,433.46	167,100.23	171,881.00
95			,		,
96	Surplus/(Deficit)	16,999.52	-	38,099.43	-



Ben Ogden representing Landgrove, and the US, at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing China. Photo by Nordic Focus Photo Agency @nordicfocus

#### **Roads Budget**

		2020 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET	2021 ACTUAL	2022 PROPOSED
1	Revenues				
2	Grants - State	7,665.60	15,000.00	51,702.20	15,000.00
3	Licenses & Permits	95.00	85.00	105.00	100.00
4	Roads Fund Taxes Raised	147,284.16	172,937.00	170,405.48	159,500.00
5	VT State Highway Aid	44,848.69	34,000.00	37,738.76	35,600.00
6	Total Revenue	199,893.45	222,022.00	259,951.44	210,200.00
7	Surplus Applied	50,698.56	28,078.00	28,078.00	32,000.00
8	TOTAL	250,592.01	250,100.00	288,029.44	242,200.00
9					
10	Expense				
11	Salaries				
12	Road Comm Stipend		1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
13	Total Salaries	-	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
14					
15	General				
16	Equipment Fund	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
17	Gas & Oil	5,332.41	7,500.00	5,922.49	6,500.00
18	Insurance Auto	3,279.00	3,000.00	3,261.00	3,500.00
19	Machine Maint & Repairs	17,266.29	15,000.00	11,640.86	15,000.00
20	Misc	6,587.51	1,000.00	9,406.56	1,000.00
21	Rent	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00
22	Utilities	414.65	500.00	583.05	600.00
23 24	Total General	69,379.86	63,500.00	67,313.96	63,100.00
25	Summer				
26	Chloride	2,790.00	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
27	Culverts	9,593.99	10,000.00	3,186.18	8,000.00
28	Ditching	22,287.50	15,000.00	8,775.00	15,000.00
29	Grading	4,785.00	10,000.00	4,795.00	7,500.00
30	Resurfacing	9,231.00	20,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
31	Roadside Mowing	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,250.00	6,500.00
32	Storm Repair	-	5,000.00	3,393.00	5,000.00
33	Misc Project	_	10,000.00	16,271.38	15,000.00
34	Total Summer	54,687.49	78,500.00	42,670.56	74,500.00
35					
36	Winter	5 504 05	0.500.00	5 005 75	0.000.00
37	Deicer	5,584.65	9,500.00	5,665.75	6,000.00
38	Contracted Services	41,323.50	40,000.00	37,362.98	40,000.00
39	Machine Rental	13,875.00	12,500.00	12,500.00	12,500.00
40	Road Repairs Sand & Materials	12,294.00	5,000.00	7,012.50	5,000.00
41		25,369.40	40,000.00	31,645.00	40,000.00
42 43	Total Winter	98,446.55	107,000.00	94,186.23	103,500.00
44 45	Total Expense	222,513.90	250,100.00	205,270.75	242,200.00
	Surplus/(Deficit)	28,078.11	-	82,758.69	-

#### **Statement of Taxes Raised**

As Tax Rates were Set Grand List Value Tax Rate	Non-Homestead 708,430.00 1.6380	Homestead 300,059.00 1.5810	Roads 1,008,424.00 0.1715	<b>General Fund</b> 1,008,424.00 0.0891	Total
Taxes to be Raised	1,160,408.83	474,393.30	172,944.71	89,850.55	1,897,597.39
As Originally Billed Subsequent Adjustments	1,160,408.83 (13,307.12)	474,393.30 -	172,944.71 (1,393.27)	89,850.55 (723.84)	1,897,597.39
As shown on 1/17/20	1,147,101.71	474,393.30	171,551.44	89,126.71	1,882,173.16
			Collections		(1,879,132.78)
			Balance Outstand	ding -	3,040.38
			Delinquent tax		3,040.39
			Other	_	(0.01)
				_	3,040.38

## Town Balance Sheet as of 12/31/2021

Ban	k Bal	lances
-----	-------	--------

Dank Dalanecs			
	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	Change
Town Assets			
Peoples Bank	5,499.31	13,252.64	7,753.33
Stifel Nicolaus	1,269,764.72	1,433,553.00	163,788.28
Petty Cash	182.82	200.00	17.18
Cemetery Assets			
Peoples Bank	20,040.32	18,924.26	(1,116.06)
Public Funds held at Stifel Nico	laus		
Cemetery	78,708.61	97,128.69	18,420.08
Conservation	31,925.86	38,391.15	6,465.29
Town Fund Balances			
Town Fund Balances	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	
Operating	765,934.76	800,870.91	34,936.15
Operating	765,934.76	800,870.91	34,930.13
ARPA Funds	-	21,820.29	21,820.29
Dog License Account	3,213.08	3,413.91	200.83
Fire Truck	2,500.00	5,000.00	2,500.00
Reappraisal	13,657.81	18,238.31	4,580.50
<b>Records Restoration</b>	5,629.98	8,474.98	2,845.00
Roads Equipment	185,000.00	215,000.00	30,000.00
Town Hall Maintenance	23,092.79	25,592.79	2,500.00

242,242.88 311,101.00 68,858.12

Reserve Funds can be found on page 20

Unallocated Reserve

#### **Operating Account**

This account is used for all town transactions that are not included in the town's eight reserve funds, the cemetery account or the Trustee of Public Funds accounts. These types of transactions include General Fund and Roads transactions, education payments and other areas of general town business.

Balance as of 12/31/2020	765,934.76
Income	
General Fund	188,200.14
Roads Fund	259,951.44
Education Tax Income	1,562,330.17
Del Tax Penalty	4,795.09
Transfer Station Income	620.00
Change in Payroll Liability	6,136.42
Total Income	2,022,033.26
Expense	
General Fund	167,100.23
Roads	205,270.75
Education Expenses	
Taconic and Green RSD	379,035.24
VT State Treasurer	1,161,470.07
Transfer Station Expense	580.00
Del Tax Penalty Paid	4,782.70
Total Expense	1,918,238.99
FY21 General Fund Surplus to Unallocated Reserve	(18,099.43)
FY21 Roads Surplus to Unallocated Reserve	(50,758.69)
Balance as of 12/31/2021	800,870.91

#### ARPA Funds

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)

Balance as of 12/31/2020 
Income
State of Vermont 23,515.29

Total Income 23,515.29

Expense
Digitization of Land Records 1,695.00

Total Expense 1,695.00

This money was awarded to the Town of Landgrove in 2021 as part of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. The Act outlines very specific guidelines regarding what these funds can be used for. Digitization of land records is an approved expense.

21,820.29

Balance as of 12/31/2021

#### **RESERVE FUNDS** pages 20-23

#### **Dog License Account**

Balance as of 12/31/2020	3,213.08
Income	
Licensing Fees	641.00
Total Income	641.00
Expense	
IDS Dog Tags	125.17
State Animal Control	315.00
Total Expense	440.17
Balance as of 12/31/2021	3,413.91

This account is mandated by Vermont Statute 20 V.S.A. § 3624 to cover the costs associated with an Animal Control Officer, should the need arise. Landgrove currently does not have an Animal Control Officer on call.

Dog licenses are available at the Town Clerk's office any time after January 1st each year. For a spayed or neutered dog, the charge is \$9 and for an unaltered dog, the charge is \$13. After April 1st, a late charge of \$2 and \$4 will apply for altered and unaltered dogs, respectively. New puppies or dogs acquired after April 1 will be charged half of the regular fee.

Please note that rabies inoculations must be current before a license can be issued.

#### RESERVE FUNDS

#### Fire Truck Fund

**Balance as of 12/31/2020** 2,500.00

Income

Town Approrpriation 2,500.00

Total Income 2,500.00

**Expense** 

No Activity -

Total Expense -

Balance as of 12/31/2021 5,000.00

This fund was established in 2020 for the purposes of spreading out the tax impact of supporting the purchase of new fire equipment by the Phoenix Fire Department in Londonderry. Voters elected to raise \$2,500 per year toward this goal.

#### Reappraisal Fund

Balance as of 12/31/2020	13,657.81
Income	
Town Appropriation	2,500.00
State of VT Equalization	219.00
State of VT Per Parcel	1,861.50
Total Income	4,580.50
Expense	
No Activity	-
Total Expense	-
Balance as of 12/31/2021	18,238.31

The Reappraisal Fund is held in reserve to cover costs associated with a town-wide reappraisal, which last occurred in 2020.

#### RESERVE FUNDS

#### **Records Restoration Fund**

Balance as of 12/31/2020	5,629.98		
Income			
Town Appropriation	1,000.00		
Per Page - Recording Fees	1,845.00		
Total Income	2,845.00		
Expense			
No Activity	-		
Total Expense	-		

The Records Restoration fund is money held in reserve for preserving the town's historical records, primarily our grand lists. Income sources are the town appropriation and the state-mandated \$1 per page recorded by the Town Clerk. Because of the anticipated costs associated with digitizing land records, the amount per page recorded by the Town Clerk in 2020 was increased to \$5 per page.

8,474.98

Balance as of 12/31/2021

#### **Road Equipment Fund**

Balance as of 12/31/2020	185,000.00
Income Town Appropriation	30,000.00
Total Income	30,000.00
Expense No Activity	-
Total Expense	-

Balance as of 12/31/2021 215,000.00

This fund is used to minimize the impact to taxpayers of large equipment

purchases used to minimize the impact to taxpayers of large equipment purchases used to maintain our roads. Taxpayers allocate money to the fund each year and the fund accumulates until it is necessary to draw funds down for a large purchase. The town truck was purchased in 2010 and is starting to show signs of wear. The grader was purchased in 2012.

#### RESERVE FUNDS

#### **Town Hall Maintenance Fund**

Balance as of 12/31/2020	23,092.79
Income	
Town Appropriation	2,500.00
Total Income	2,500.00
Expense	
No Activity	-
Total Expense	-
Balance as of 12/31/2021	25,592.79

This fund is intended to grow gradually to help mitigate the costs of large projects associated with proper care and improvements of our town hall building.

#### **Unallocated Reserve Fund**

Balance as of 12/31/2020	242,242.88
Income	
No Activity	-
Total Income	-
Expense	
No Activity	-
Total Expense	-
From General Fund Surplus	18,099.43
From GF And Roads Budget Surplus	50,758.69
Balance as of 12/31/2021	311,101.00

#### Vendor Payments over \$5000

		2021
Vermont State Treasurer	\$ :	1,162,025
Taconic and Green RSD	\$	386,357
Merrills X	\$	47,580
Merrill, Curtis Jay	\$	44,672
Town of Londonderry	\$	22,467
Ogden & Chalmers, LLC.	\$	19,549
Merrill's Excavating	\$	18,500
F. R. Lafayette, Inc.	\$	14,253
SWNH Fire Mutal Aid	\$	9,969
Cincinnati Insurance Company	\$	8,355
Howard P. Fairfield, LLC	\$	8,150
Marc Waldo Landscaping	\$	8,125
County of Bennington	\$	6,892
United States Treasury	\$	6,560
Landgrove Cemetery Commission	\$	6,500
Dorr Oil	\$	5,736
Woolmington, et al	\$	5,666
Cargill	\$	5,666



Volunteers gather to clean up our roads on Green Up Day.

#### Annual Report of Collector of Delinquent Taxes December 31, 2021

			1/1/2021				1	2/31/2021
	Year	0	utstanding	(	Collections	Abatements		Balance
	2016	\$	12,324.01	\$	12,324.01		\$	-
	2017	\$	5,175.62	\$	5,175.62		\$	-
	2018	\$	-				\$	-
	2019	\$	-				\$	-
	2020	\$	6,843.62	\$	674.98		\$	6,168.64
	2021 (10/1)	\$	74,429.69	\$	71,389.30		\$	3,040.39
_		\$	98,772.94	\$	89,563.91	\$ -	\$	9,209.03
lle	ctions	\$	89,563.91					
		,	,					

Total Tax Collections	Ş	89,563.91
Interest Received	\$	11,110.86
Remitted to Treasurer	\$	100,674.77
Del Tax Penalty Collected	\$	4,795.09
Paid to Del Tax Collector	\$	4,782.70

As of December 31, 2021, there are two properties with unpaid taxes from 2020 and 2021. Information on delinquent properties is available to the public at the town office.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Ogden Delinquent Tax Collector

#### **Road Commissioner Report**

Our roads held up pretty well in 2021. Mud season seemed short and sweet, and we only experienced a few deep mud holes that Jay was able to address in a quick manner. The summer brought a lot of rain which made it difficult to schedule grading and other road work. Our winters seem to be filled with more frequent rain events, which are requiring the use of a lot more sand and a lot more effort on Jay's part. I thank him for persevering through those early morning icy storms and braving the roads with a loaded truck going up and down our hills.

We were able to complete our new guardrail and road reshaping project near the Peru town line on Hapgood Road. This entailed upgrading all the guardrails to the new guardrail profile and bringing them to the correct height off the road surface. We also brought the guardrails closer to the traveled portion of the road to help people navigate the corner safely, and we reshaped the road surface to help with the off camber corner. So far (knock on wood) the upgrade and redesign seems to be working.

We made some more progress on bringing our road ditching into compliance with the State's Clean Water Act. The regulation requires all roadside ditching in close proximity to any waterway and at a certain pitch be lined with stone. We have been receiving State grant money the last few years to help offset the additional costs. We completed our FYI 21 project on County Road West in the fall as well as started our FYI 22 ditching on Old County East.

We were also awarded a State grant for the purchase of a large tow-behind debris blower. This will help us blow out leaves and sticks from the stone-lined ditches to help prolong their effectiveness and lengthen the time between re-ditching.

We were planning on addressing a reoccurring wet spot on the south end of Ridge Road just as you drop down towards Rt. 11. We held off on doing the work in hopes that the clear cutting on either side of the road by the property owners might change the situation and help this troubled area. Upon the arrival of early winter, we noticed the wet area had come back. We will put this issue on our schedule to improve this coming summer.

As always, if you feel there are road issues that need attention, please feel free to let me know. It is helpful to hear from people since I am not able to get out and check all the roads frequently enough.

Steven Hall

Road Commissioner

#### **Select Board Report**

As always, a huge "Thank You" to all the people who work hard to keep Landgrove functioning as a town. As many of you have heard me say, it is getting more and more difficult to manage the functions of even a small town like Landgrove. The world that we live in is getting more complicated, and that fact is starting to have a significant impact on small towns that are still trying to self-govern with a largely volunteer labor force. This year I would like to single out for recognition some of groups that have gone above and beyond even by Landgrove standards. Our Auditors are doing a large and very important job, and they are doing it with a remarkable degree of professionalism. We are very lucky to have them serving. Thank you! Our Planning Commission has had a few years of tackling some issues in town that go well beyond the standard stuff that is the norm for a small-town Planning Commission. A large thank you to them, and particularly to their very capable leader. Out Listers have a difficult and often thankless job and they put a tremendous amount of time into doing it and doing it well. Thank you! And of course, thank you to Jay and all those that help him manage the maintenance of our roads. We welcome and strongly encourage participation in the running of our town from all of you. Perhaps the most remarkable thing about our community is how invested we all are in it. Let's make sure that continues.

On to the nuts and bolts of 2021 from the perspective of the Select Board. I wish I had more significant updates to report, but 2021 involved a lot of continuing to nudge forward many of the same issues we've been working on for years. The roads are a constant. The sand shed is a slow and methodical process, and we continue to make headway. We are also, slowly but surely, moving toward getting more of our addresses access to a reasonable internet connection. These processes are very bureaucratic and very slow. I wish it were otherwise, but that is the reality of the times.

The year ahead will have us continuing to work hard on the issues mentioned above. In addition, we are looking into figuring out a system that we can install in the town hall that will allow us to use video conferencing for our various meetings, including future Town Meetings. We are going to be very sensitive to the historic nature of our town hall building when we are thinking about installing this system, and, as always, we welcome input on this process. It is getting time for us to think about replacing our town plow truck. We are going to try to move that forward this spring. We will continue the process of trying to make our roads safer and more resilient. That will consist of the usual projects involving guardrails, culverts, ditching, and resurfacing. A lot of Select Board, Clerk, and Treasurer effort these days goes into chasing grants and other funding opportunities for these projects. One last tidbit – It would be great for the town if we had an assistant Clerk and an assistant Treasurer. Anyone interested in that position should talk to Chrystal or Andrea.

The Select Board meets twice a month, and the general public is always welcome. Please come to these meetings with any and all ideas, criticisms, compliments, or constructive advice.

#### Respectfully submitted, John Ogden. Select Board Chair

Select Board meetings are held on the 2nd and the 4th Thursdays of each month at 8am at the Town Hall. Members of the public are always welcome to observe the meeting. Please contact the clerk a week in advance of the meeting to get on the agenda. Also, please note that the minutes of the meeting are public record and are available at the Town Hall and on our website at landgrove vermont.gov.

#### **Cemetery Commission**

This has been quite a busy year and we have quite a few people to thank. First we owe a debt of gratitude and many thanks to Clarence Nichols who retired this year after many years of service to the town of Landgrove and to Pauline, his wife who was always there by his side to be of help.

We also want to thank Dick Adams for all the work he did in repairing and straightening up several of the old tombstones in the old cemetery His donation of time and knowledge was invaluable.

Many thanks to all of our commissioners who were such big helpers and came out and helped with measuring grave sights and finding corner stones.

Of course I do not want to forget Monk Ogden. He was a huge help and taught me many things of which I was unaware. I know I can always call on him.

We sold seven plots and interned several cremations. Thank you to our sexton, Marc Waldo.

We also purchased and placed flags by the graves of all our veterans.

I want to thank especially all of our commissioners: May Bigelow, Jay Snyder and Dick Adams, and our honorary commissioner, Monk Ogden, who made themselves always available whether it was for a meeting or for helping out.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Eckhardt



From the ceremony to celebrate the new veterans' memorial. See the report on page 38.

#### **Cemetery Operating Account**

Balance as of 12/31/2020	20,040.32
Income	
Town Appropriation	6,500.00
Plot Sales	4,600.00
Plots Sales Recording Income	90.00
General Donations	450.00
Veterans Memorial Donations	100.00
Total Income	11,740.00
Expense	
Veterans Memorial Expense	4,625.95
Routine Maintenance	6,325.00
Misc Expense	479.78
Paper Statement Fees	58.00
Flags and Holders	77.33
Recording Fees	90.00
Transfer to Endowment	1,200.00
Total Expense	12,856.06
Balance as of 12/31/2021	18,924.26

#### Note:

Cemetery Balance includes \$406.47 held in reserve for the Veterans Memorial Project.

#### Clerk's Report

Thank you for allowing me again to serve as your Town Clerk. I was elected in 2013 for the first of nine annual terms as Clerk, and I have enjoying serving the people of our Town, learning and adapting as the office has developed and modernized a little bit each year.

Midway through last year, our Assistant Clerk and Treasurer, Lori Langevin, moved out of Town for a new job in New York near her father's farm, which was great for her and her family but sad for us that she had to resign her Town positions. Assistant Clerks are appointed by the Town Clerk and usually take on the recording of deeds, and such daily office tasks such as selling transfer station cards and dog licenses. The AC is an hourly position, with just a few hours each week on Thursday mornings. Please see me if anyone is interested in joining our merry Thursday morning band and learning some aspects of town government work!

The Federal government has made available grant money (American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA) to Towns via the state to modernize access to government functions in response to the closures and restrictions that occur during the pandemic. Only certain types of expenditures meet the qualifications for ARPA reimbursement, and must be initiated, contracted for, or completed within strict timeframes. In 2021, I contracted with RecordsForce and New England Municipal Resource Center to scan and index all public town land records. This serves two purposes: first, all records are now preserved in a digital format, and the files of them belong to the Town, and second, a portal is being linked (very soon!) which will allow searching and printing (for a fee) of these deeds and land records remotely.

This remote access benefits landowners, assessors, surveyors, lawyers, title searchers, contractors and real estate agents not only during a pandemic when office access is severely limited, but also during healthy times when land records access is limited by bad weather, user schedules, or just the fact that our office hours are so limited to begin with. Remote digital access to records keeps land transactions and projects moving when the office is hard to get to, but also allows for more precise and versatile indexing and searching than the old index card system. Mortgage discharges and assignments can be linked directly to the originals they replace, names and addresses from deeds are consistent in format and relined directly to the Grand List program after review by Town Listers, so contact info is kept more current and parcel IDs are linked in one database, rather than having to cross check in different binders, lists or computers.

Lastly, I'd like to make a pitch for election volunteers to sign up for a 2 hour shift on election day! It's a great way to serve your community and learn a little bit about election processes and laws, right at the grass roots. This year we have Town and School District elections on March 1st, we'll have the state primary in August, and the midterm General Election in November. Take a shift at the polls and them come back after close to count ballots. We pair new volunteers with experienced ones so come and see and learn and be a part of democracy in your own town. Talk to me to learn more and sign up for any of these elections!

Respectfully submitted, Chrystal Cleary

#### **Landgrove Community Club**

Sarah and Will Reed are the new coordinators of Green Up Day and Sarah reports that it "was a huge success in Landgrove. It was a cold, but beautiful spring day made even better by the 35 volunteers who came out to help! Together we cleaned over 15-miles of roads and collected 22 bags of garbage. We look forward to another successful collection this spring!"

The Fourth of July also, according to Mary Licata, "turned out to be a beautiful day. The weather was great after a long run of rainy days. The fireworks went off without a hitch." Special thanks to Bruno Licata, Jack Nurnberger, Donny Ameden and Mick Arace. She also reported "there seemed to be a great turn out of families, neighbors and friends gathering waiting for the sun to set." Covid caused the committee to pause on the parade and the potluck-aspect of the picnic, but the generous community spirit of the day persisted.

Nick and Amada Careless chaired the annual Halloween party. The event is usually hosted at the Town Hall, but covid restrictions redirected Nick and Amanda toward an outside party at their house. Nick created an amazing, spooky walk in the woods and a good time was had by all!

December 31 marked my last day as President of the Landgrove Community Club. I can't wait to see what springs forth in the next evolution of this committee – this town never ceases to amaze me!

Respectfully submitted, Andrea Ogden





#### **Landgrove Historical Society**

Our continuing goal is to gather documents, photos and artifacts of historical significance to Landgrove, and to make the collections accessible to the public.

Our office in the Town Hall is open on Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

As in previous years, we responded to requests for genealogical information about former Landgrove residents and others with a connection to the town.

#### 2021 Events

On July 4, in partnership with the Landgrove Meeting House, David Eckhardt led the reading and discussion of Frederick Douglass's 1852 fiery address on the signing of the Declaration of Independence what has been referred to as "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?"

Our summer show was "Landgrove's Greatest Generation" about all those with a Landgrove connection who served in WWII. This was accompanied by the release of a book by the same name. Copies of the book are available at our office for \$10.

In August, Rob Badger led a short hike into the former site of Clark Lodge, now just a foundation in the Green Mountain National Forest.

In partnership with the Landgrove Meeting House and Vermont Humanities, the Society hosted a talk in November by Howard Coffin titled "1800 and Froze to Death: 1816, the Year without a Summer." The talk was about the year 1816 when there were frosts every month of the year, including a major snowstorm in June. The cooling was the result of the volcanic eruption of Mt. Tambora in Indonesia which spread volcanic ash into the upper atmosphere, resulting in a worldwide decrease in solar radiation reaching the ground.

#### **Board of Directors**

Rob Badger, President Meg Pennypacker, Treasurer Christine Morfit, Secretary

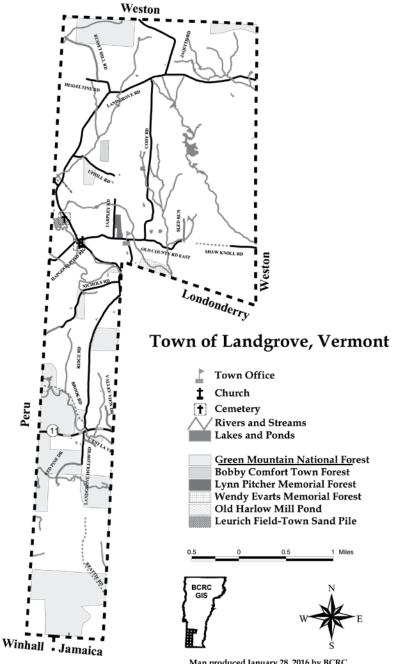
David Eckhardt, Susan Goetze, Sally Ogden, Marion Sweetman, Jonathan Bigelow, Kathy Snyder, May Bigelow

#### Advisors

Priscilla Grayson Ann Ogden Hausslein Anne McClaren Andrea Ogden Hope Pinkerton

2021 total membership 69

#### Map of Town Lands



#### Listers' Report

The listers had a busy and in many regards an unusual year. The continuation of Covid, the increased demands/changes at the state level, and various programming and software updates added to our normal workload.

This past spring two of our newer listers underwent extensive training via zoom. We also greatly benefitted from Andrea Ogden taking over temporarily as an administrative assistant for some of the computer reporting and data entry work for the listers. This was particularly crucial from March thru September as the state wanted more information and needed more reports to be clarified. All ended well for the listers and the town–great thanks to Andrea.

We also want to thanks our state adviser Cy Bailey for his valuable, hands on work with our lister board. We also appreciate the work of Will Goodwin, our planning and zoning administrator, for his help in coordinating permits for our review and eventual site visits. We continue to review and carry forward as necessary the permits for the last three years plus until permitted projects are completed.

This past year we visited and/or did in depth file review on 14 properties with changes based upon approved permits and activity on those permits from April 1, 2020 to April 1, 2021. With the land curve adopted two years ago, all current use parcels had to be reviewed for the state and for us. This was very time consuming and at times frustrating activity. Again, our state advisor and Andrea were of enormous help. All turned out well. We had just a few inquiries from taxpayers about changes in their assessment; and we had no appeals to our local BCA or the courts.

The increase in the responsibilities and the ever-evolving complexities of lister responsibilities continues to be a concern throughout the state.

To help address these issues and to help Andrea give up her temporary administrative duties, we were very fortunate to have hired Jeremiah Sund to be the lister administrator. He started in the fall and works part time (usual Thurs mornings and as needed) for Landgrove. He has extensive experience and is very qualified. He works in the same capacity for Londonderry but obviously for more time. We are most pleased to have him on our team.

Landgrove's 5700 acres consists of approximately 220 parcels of which over 165 have structures.

All the various state forms and reports were filed on time and were accepted. We should note that Equalized Education Grand List for Landgrove for 2021 is \$104,656,543. Our CLA (common level of appraisal) for the year is 96.36%. This is essentially how close a town's local assessments are to fair market value. A number below 100% means property is generally listed at less than fair market value but when the CLA falls below 85% or over 115% the state requires a town wide reappraisal. Quite honestly, some of the state data works on three year

rolling average data and with the unbelievable real estate activity in last two years in Vermont, we would not be surprised to see more statewide reassessment requirements in the future!

We also want to report that our COD (coefficient of dispersion) is 8.67%; a COD of less than 10% is considered "excellent" and reflects a relatively high level of equity across taxpayers' assessments. A COD of between 10%-19% is viewed as "reasonable" where over 20% would require a state ordered reappraisal.

We would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Victoria Duffy for her service as a lister for this past year and wish her well.

Finally we would like to thank all taxpayers for their support and cooperation.

Respectively submitted. Stay well.

Victoria Duffy Blair McCaw Chuck Sweetman

# **School Director's Report**

It has been another interesting year in our schools! Similarly to what was reported in 2021, this past year has been hugely challenging at all levels—from the experiences of students and families to those of teachers, administrators and District staff. Everyone has been affected by masking, social distancing and contact tracing to designing COVID-safe learning experiences and supporting new social-emotional needs, all with persistent staff shortages. On the bright side, this year has also been filled with innovations, new opportunities, and lots and lots of learning - planned and otherwise!

At the school board level, our focus has primarily been on ensuring that the Superintendent has adequate structures and supports to deliver the best possible learning experiences for all the students in the district. As a "policy governance" board, that means less work micromanaging details like bus routes and more time spent creating clear, ambitious and achievable expectations for outcomes, and then supporting the Superintendent to realize those goals.

We spent significant time in 2021 soliciting and reviewing community feedback on shared goals for the "purpose of school" now and into the future. From over 600 independent responses to surveys, Zoom forums and other feedback, we crafted and shared new "Ends Policies" for the District to guide the work in schools: "All students of the Taconic and Green Regional School District (T&G) will develop the knowledge, skills and dispositions needed to become equity minded global citizens, at a cost that supports the essential roles that schools play in our community." In addition to this primary goal, the board detailed supporting sub-goals, including: Dispositions for Lifelong Learners; Academic Achievement; Social, Emotional and Personal Learning, and; Meaningful Engagement and Integration of Skills. I encourage readers to review the full policy goals on the Taconic and Green website and share your feedback!

The outlook for the 2022 school budget and local tax rates should provide a bit of good news for Landgrove residents this tax season: rates are anticipated to decline by 2%. The application of federal stimulus dollars, higher-than-expected state revenues, a beneficial Common Level of Appraisal valuation for Landgrove, and conservative school budgeting all play a role in this outcome. Although this confluence of factors is welcome news (and has also allowed the district to reinforce our "tax stabilization fund" to protect against future budget shocks), declining enrollment, the rising cost of health care, social services provided in schools, and fair compensation of our teachers and staff are all expected to put pressure on budgets across the state in future years. Please look for more budget and financial details on the BRSU and T&G website, attend any of our monthly board meetings on Zoom, or reach out directly with any questions or concerns; I'd love to hear your thoughts!

In closing, I want to express my deep appreciation and respect for everyone who has worked in our schools and central office this past year. It has been a relentlessly complex and challenging time to work in education, and we're not out of the woods yet. The teachers, staff and administrators who work to keep our schools open and safe for our communities' children touch all of our lives, and we owe them thanks!

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Freeman



A pair of Landgrovers volunteering to clean up our roads on Green Up Day.

# **Veterans' Memorial Report**

The Landgrove Veterans' Memorial Committee would like to thank all those who supported the funding, building, and dedication of the new Landgrove Veterans' Memorial. The Memorial was dedicated on Veterans' Day, November 11th, 2021. Several people assisted with the dedication and made it a resounding success. We would like to thank our guest speaker Mr. Howard Coffin for his eloquent and insightful speech. We would also like to thank Pastor Melissa O'Brien for her lovely invocation, Bill Creamer for adding the bagpipe tunes played throughout the dedication, Lynn Eckhardt for leading the Pledge of Allegiance and Monk Ogden for cutting the ribbon.

To date we have spent \$5,483 of \$5,890 received in donations, leaving us with a balance of \$406.47, some of which will be spent this spring on purchasing a few flowering shrubs or bushes to plant to the right of the steps leading from the back of the cemetery down to the Memorial. If you have not yet had the chance to view it, the new Veteran's Memorial is between the Old Cemetery and Leurich Field. It is worth a quick visit.

Lastly, the Veterans' Memorial Committee would like to ask for your support in funding a small stone wall to be built in front of the two maple trees which frame Leurich Field when viewed from the Memorial. A quote has been received for the construction of the wall, which should not exceed \$4,000. To that end we are asking that the town provide funding of up to \$5,000 to build the wall. Any funds remaining in the Veterans' Memorial account upon completion of the wall will be transferred into the Cemetery Operating Account. Thank you for supporting our Veterans' Memorial!

Respectfully,

Nick Careless, Chrystal Cleary, Susan Collins, Greg Eckhardt and Kara Evarts (The Veteran's Memorial Committee)





# Treasurer's Report

The town website (landgrove.vermont.gov) features a Payment tab on the top menu bar of the home page. Under this tab, payments of any type (transfer station punch cards, dog licenses, zoning permits or taxes) can be made via credit card or bank transfer. The cost of a bank transfer is \$2.50, which makes this a reasonable option for making large property tax payments.

I would like to note that Lori Langevin, elected Treasurer at Town Meeting in 2021, moved back to her hometown of Salem, New York this summer. The local school district offered her an excellent job and she took the opportunity to be closer to her family. I miss her energy and infectious smile!

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Ogden, Treasurer

#### Trustees of Public Funds

The Trustees of Public Funds manage, invest and report on all real and personal property held in trust by the Town. The Landgrove Trustees of Public Funds currently manage two funds - the Cemetery Endowment Fund and the Conservation Fund. Any future bequeaths which specify how the funds are to be used will also be managed by the Trustees. 17 V.S.A. § 2646(12); 24 V.S.A. § 2431 et seq.

The Landgrove Cemetery Endowment was established to ensure that the cemeteries of Landgrove would be maintained in perpetuity. The account has two funding mechanisms in addition to the growth associated with the investment vehicles - a \$200 fee that is incorporated into the sale of each new cemetery plot and the \$1000 Town Appropriation that is a part of the Town's annual General Fund budget. We are pleased with the overall growth and interest rate of this account in 2021, however, the Trustees agreed to again return the interest income back into the account. Our goal remains continued growth.

The Conservation Fund was created out of excess funds raised by the Landgrove community in supporting the legal conservation of the Martin Field off Hapgood Pond Road. The interest on the fund is intended to support Landgrove property owners with costs associated with future land conservation efforts. Over the years,

the idea of repurposing this account has been raised but there is no action on this concept at this time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dick Adams Andrea Ogden Sally Waite

#### **Cemetery Operating Account**

Balance as of 12/31/2020

Income

Town Appropriation	6,500.00
Plot Sales	4,600.00
Plots Sales Recording Income	90.00
General Donations	450.00
Veterans Memorial Donations	100.00
Total Income	11,740.00
Expense	
Veterans Memorial Expense	4,625.95
Routine Maintenance	6,325.00
Misc Expense	479.78
Paper Statement Fees	58.00
Flags and Holders	77.33
Recording Fees	90.00
Transfer to Endowment	1,200.00
Total Expense	12,856.06
Balance as of 12/31/2021	18,924.26

20,040.32

#### Note:

Cemetery Balance includes \$406.47 held in reserve for the Veterans Memorial Project.

## **Zoning & Planning**

The 2021 planning and zoning board lost a valuable member, Josh Wengerd, to the housing boom. Josh resigned from the board in November after selling his home in Landgrove. We wish him well in the new home and will see him around town. Jeff Cleary was able to step in to fill the vacancy and we expect his passion for our small community to help the board meet the planning and zoning needs or our community.

After starting the year off with virtual meetings, we were able to transition to a mix of in-person and virtual meetings which seemed to work reasonably well. With improvements in technology, we are hopeful to provide this blended meeting format for the foreseeable future.

Our Zoning Administrator, Will Goodwin, received a total of 8 applications for consideration. Six of the applications were approved by either the ZA or the Zoning Board. After careful consideration, one application was denied by the Zoning Board for a wedding venue on the Bennett property. It is under appeal. The Town of Landgrove submitted an application for the new maintenance building on the Checchia property which is currently delayed while parties review options.

One note from last year, the application from Blue Flame Gas for an office and propane storage facility on Valley View Drive is still under appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Lux (Chair) Ryan Foster Mary Licata Michael Mole Michael Morfit Josh Wengerd

#### How to Contact the ZA?

Will Goodwin • langzba@gmail.com Office Hours at Town Hall: Thursdays 8am-11am or by appointment

# **Londonderry Solid Waste Group Report**

# LONDONDERRY SOLID WASTE GROUP Serving the towns of Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru, Weston, Windham

Unfortunately, **COVID-19** is still on everyone's mind. So, we ask anyone visiting the transfer station to please take the following precautions. Only visit if you are healthy, keep it simple, only bring waste that can't wait like trash and food scraps, minimize the number of trips, practice social distancing by keeping 6 feet of space between other customers and staff, and please wear a mask. Thank you for helping keep yourself and the staff healthy.

2022 Transfer Station Permit Stickers are available for purchase at member towns' Offices. You can also purchase punch cards to pay for disposal at these offices and Londonderry Hardware and Weston General Store

Household Hazardous Waste Events: If you missed our two events this past year, visit londonderryvt.org/recycle and click on the A-Z list for information on how to dispose of architectural paints, alkaline and rechargeable batteries and cell phones, mercury thermostats, fluorescent bulbs, prescription medications and electronics. Our 2022 Hazardous Waste Events will be on the first Saturday in June and the first Saturday in October. Londonderry Group members can also dispose of materials at the Rutland County Solid Waste District. You will have to purchase a permit for \$60 and pay for disposal. For more information, visit https://www.rcswd.com/hhw/ where you can register to drop off your hazardous materials.

To many people's delight <u>The Take It or Leave It Shed</u> is once again open. Please follow these guidelines. The Take it or Leave it Shed is open from **12-3 each** day the transfer station is open.

NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES

NO BEDDING

NO VHS TAPES

NO BROKEN/UNUSABLE ITEMS

NO CLOTHING/SHOES-bring to Thrifty Attic or place in One World bins in plastic bags

ALL ITEMS SHOULD BE IN GOOD WORKING CONDITIONS

#### When in doubt, ask the attendant

Food Scrap Ban: As of July 1, 2020, food waste has been banned from disposal in landfills. Residents, institutions, businesses, and schools should divert their food waste by contracting with their haulers, bringing food to the transfer station, composting at home, feeding food scraps to domestic animals, donating to food banks, and reducing the amount purchased to avoid wasting food. If you compost at home, you can bring your meat and bones to the transfer station's food scrap collection bins or put in your trash.

<u>Vermont's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)</u> legislation makes manufactures of products like Computers, Batteries, Paint, Mercury Light Bulbs and Mercury Thermostats take responsibility for their products at the end of their useful life. To find year-round drop-offs call 1-855-63-CYCLE or go to VTrecycles.com. The Londonderry Group will hold an Electronics Collection Event in May 2022. Check londonderryvt.org for dates and times.

If you have questions, want to join the Londonderry Group's mailing list to receive alerts about special collections (hazardous waste & electronics) or if your school or business is interested in learning about ways to handle solid waste, organics, recyclables, and other materials please contact recycle@londonderryvt.org.

#### Southern Vermont Communications Union District

To our Member Towns and their Residents:

The Southern Vermont Communications Union District, a political subdivision of the State of Vermont, is a multi-municipal organization working to solve the longstanding rural broadband connectivity challenges in its fourteen member towns. Since forming in March of 2020, the CUD has grown to include Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Landgrove, Londonderry, Manchester, Peru, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Shaftsbury, Sunderland, Winhall, and Woodford.

In 2021, after issuing a Request for Qualifications and receiving multiple private sector responses, the CUD formed a public-private partnership with Consolidated Communications to ensure that currently unserved and underserved areas of the CUD are provided with world-class fiber broadband built out to the premises. In partnership with CCI, the Southern Vermont CUD submitted an application to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's broadband infrastructure grant for a \$9.05 million fiber optic buildout program, and expects a determination in February 2022. A successful application, combined with separate fiber optic broadband incentives under the FCC's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, will realize broadband buildout to 97 percent of the 2,500 unserved and underserved addresses in the district, with construction scheduled to begin in the second quarter of 2022. We are pleased to inform the public that, under the terms of the partnership with CCI, the CUD would retain ownership of all physical assets built with federal dollars.

While we are confident in our application, we also wish to assure the public that this is not the region's only pathway to connectivity. The Vermont Community Broadband Board recently announced the availability of funding under the Broadband Construction Grant Program, a provision of Act 71. Under this program, the CUD would be eligible for \$4.34 million of funding to build out a fiber optic broadband network. We are in the process of developing multiple application scenarios for this grant, and will submit the proposal most appropriate for the forthcoming NTIA funding decision.

By way of closing, we would like to thank the many people and organizations who continue to support our work: the Department of Public Service; the Vermont Community Broadband Board; the Vermont Community Foundation; our elected officials; and the Bennington County Regional Commission. Most importantly, however, we would like to recognize the delegates that you have appointed to the CUD's Governing Board. They have dedicated their time and energy to solving an immensely difficult problem, and we would not have made the progress that we have made to date without them.

We meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 6:00 PM. Please join us, and learn more at soytcud.net.

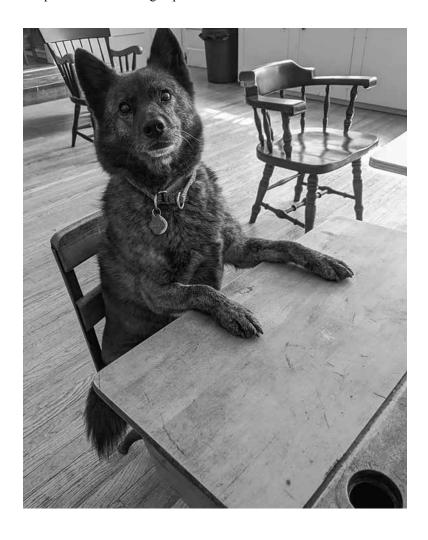
Sincerely,

Eric Hatch, Chair, Southern Vermont Communications Union District

## ANNUAL DOG LICENSE RENEWAL DUE APRIL 1

Make sure we have an up to date rabies certificate on file at Town Hall and get your annual dog tag- this year it is a cool purple star!

Spayed and neutered dogs' license fee is \$9, intact dogs \$11- but take care of this before April 1 when the fees go up!





A rare visit from a sand hill crane this summer in Landgrove. Photo by Hubert Schreibel

Town of Landgrove 88 Landgrove Road Landgrove, VT 05148

# TOWN MEETING ON ZOOM

THE HEARING: Mon. Feb 28 at 6pm via Zoom (see inside front cover for details) TO VOTE: at Town Hall Tue. March 1 8am-7pm